

News Release

UMC Ranked “Best College” for Eighth Year

By Krista Lemos on Friday, August 19, 2005

The University of Minnesota, Crookston, (UMC) has been ranked one of the best public colleges in the Midwest for a eighth consecutive year, according to U.S. News and World Report's rankings for 2006. UMC was again ranked among the top three colleges in the category “Top Public Midwest Comprehensive Colleges–Bachelor's.”

The 2006 rankings were made public Friday, August 19, at the U.S. News website <[www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)>.UMC also receives the recognition in the August 29 edition of the U.S. News and World Report's annual “best colleges” issue that will be released August 22.

“This announcement by U.S. News and World Report is an affirmation of the high quality of our campus and it recognizes UMC's determination to continue to offer students the best educational experience available,” said Joe Massey, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean at UMC. “Being ranked in the top three for the eighth consecutive year is a great way for us to begin this new academic year. At a time when we are celebrating our campus centennial,” Massey states, “we want to recognize and celebrate the many successes we have had as a campus. Providing a high quality student experience for our students is our foremost goal today, just as it was 100 years ago.”

UMC's category, Top Public Comprehensive Colleges–Bachelor's, contained 324 comprehensive colleges categorized into four geographical regions of the U.S.—North, South, Midwest, and West. According to U.S. News these institutions focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs—in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education.

According to U.S. News, the method of ranking colleges and universities consists of three basic steps. The schools are first categorized by size, mission, and region. In the spring data is gathered from each institution regarding several indicators of academic excellence, including academic reputation; retention of students; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance; and alumni giving. Each factor is assigned a weight that reflects U.S. News' judgment about how much each measure matters. Finally, the colleges in each category are ranked against their peers, based on their composite weighted score.

UMC is beginning its thirteenth year as a baccalaureate degree granting university. It is also the college's thirteenth year of providing laptop computers to all full-time students and faculty members.

To see all the 2006 U.S. News rankings online, go to <[www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm)>.

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